— Abolition of export duty on unma nufactured tobacco with effect from 1-4-1986;

— Inclusion of unmanufactured tobacco in the select list of export products under Appendix 16 of Import-Export Policy;

— Reduced interest rates on advances/ export credits granted to the exporters with effect from 1-8-1986;

— Exports of tobacco to China have been permitted on D.A. terms (Documents against Acceptance) with the time stipulation being 30 days within which collection would be made after discharge of cargo at the port of destination;

— Exports of tobacco to Egypt have been permitted with payment terms involving 50 per cent against presentation of documents on shipment and balance 50 per cent on arrival of goods after inspection in Egypt;

— Exports to Algeria have been permitted by extension of one year credit;

- — A delegation comprising of the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce Tobacco Board/STC visited Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia in July, 1987 for export promotion of tobacco;

— The STC has been asked to contact buyers in Spain, Portugal, FRG and France through their Paris Office and explore markets for Indian tobacco in these countries.

Amendment of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974

\ 2136. SHRIMATI VEEN A VERMA; SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT **AND** FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to amend the existing Water (Pre vention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;

(b) whether the Central Government also propose to confer more powers on the State Governments to control pollu tion and also to impose stringent penalties on defaulters; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the amendments likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) A proposal to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is under the consideration of the Government.

Cotton handloom garments exported by STC

2137. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of cotton garments exported from India by the State Trading Corporation and its subsidiary agencies and quantum of foreign exchange earned by the Corporation and its subsidiary agencies during the last three years, year-wise (cotton garments and hand-looms separately);

(b) what was the target fixed for the exports of cotton garments and hand-looms for the State Trading Corporation and its subsidies during the las', three years, indicating the names of the subsidiary agencies and also indicating the names of the trading countries;

(c) whether it is a fact that State Trading Corporation and its agencies are only assisting big garment exporters while ignoring young women entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, whether S.T.C. win chalk out any programme for helping young women entrepreneurs engaged in the manu. | facture of cotton/handloom garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (d) The infor-nia io$_n$ is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Manufacture of illegal arms and amniunition

2138. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases brought to the noLice of the Central Government about the factories manufacturing illegal arms and ammunition in the country during the years 1986 and 1987;

(b) the number of raids conducted and such illegal factories unearthed during the said period year-wise and State-wise;

(c) the details of arms and ammunition seized in each raid and the number of persons apprehended in this connection as on the 31st December, 1987; and

(d) the action being taken against them?,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed *(See below).*

(c) and (d) During the raids various types of revolvers,- pistols, rifles, guns; carbines, cartridges, hand granades, etc., were reported to have been seized. In total i'rom 1-1-86 to 31st My, 1987, 505 persons were reported to have been apprehended and cases registered against all the offenders under the Arms Act, 1959.

Information pertaining to the period from 1-8-1987 to 31st December, 1987 in respect of parts (a) to (d) of the question is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

According to the reports received for the period from 1-1-1986 *to* 31*st July,* 1987 *over* 3,000 *raids were conducted in the Country but no activities connected with illegal manufacture of arms and ammunition were unearthed in the following States/UTs:—*

States	Union Territories
1. Arunachal Pradesh	(1) A & N Islands
2. Assam	(2) Chandigarh
3. Goa	(3) Dadra & Nagar Haveli
4. Haryana	(4) Daman & Diu
5. Himachal Pradesh	(5) Lakshadweep
6. Kerala	(6) Pondicherry
7. Manipur	
8. Mizoram	
9. Nagaland	
10. Sikkim	
11. Tamil Nadu	
12. Tripura	